**Emacs File Bookmarks**

User Guide Originated on the Emacs Wiki

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Bookmarks record locations so you can return to them later.

1. [Introduction](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/BookMarks#toc1)
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**Introduction**

Emacs bookmarking makes use of three things that are related but different: a bookmark *list*, a bookmark *file*, and a bookmark-list *display*. Understanding these is important to using Emacs bookmarks. They are explained at [Bookmark Basics](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/BookmarkPlus#BookmarkBasics).

Some bookmarking commands to get you started:

* ‘C-x r m’ – set a bookmark at the current location (e.g. in a file)
* ‘C-x r b’ – jump to a bookmark
* ‘C-x r l’ – list your bookmarks
* ‘M-x bookmark-delete’ – delete a bookmark by name

Your personal bookmark file is defined by [option](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/option) ‘bookmark-default-file’, which defaults to `~/.emacs.bmk’. The file is maintained automatically by Emacs as you create, change, and delete bookmarks.

([Bookmark+](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/Bookmark%2b) makes it easy to have multiple bookmark files – different sets of bookmarks for different uses.)

**`\*Bookmark List\*'**

The bookmark list (buffer ‘\*Bookmark List\*’) is like [Dired](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/DiredMode) or [BufferMenu](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/BufferMenu) for bookmarks. You access it using ‘C-x r l’. (Emacs sometimes calls it the “bookmark *menu* list”, which is a misnomer.)

Some keys in ‘\*Bookmark List\*’:

* ‘a’ – show annotation for the current bookmark
* ‘A’ – show all annotations for your bookmarks
* ‘d’ – mark various entries for deletion (‘x’ – to delete them)
* ‘e’ – edit the annotation for the current bookmark
* ‘m’ – mark various entries for display and other operations, (‘v’ – to visit)
* ‘o’ – visit the current bookmark in another window, keeping the bookmark list open
* ‘C-o’ – switch to the current bookmark in another window
* ‘r’ – rename the current bookmark

**Info Bookmarks and Virtual Books**

You can bookmark [Info](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/InfoMode) nodes also – just use ‘C-x r m’, as usual. Command ‘bookmark-bmenu-list’, bound to ‘C-x r l’, provides a convenient menu to access bookmarks.

**Access File Bookmarks from `C-x C-f'**

If you hit ‘C-x C-f’ and then realize that you want a file that is bookmarked, you can get to the bookmark this way:

From: MatthiasMeulien Subject: Re: bookmarks and abbrevs

Newsgroups: gnu.emacs.help Date: 17 Jun 2002 20:20:59 +0200

(defun bookmark-to-abbrevs ()

"Create abbrevs based on `bookmark-alist'."

(dolist (bookmark bookmark-alist)

(let\* ((name (car bookmark))

(file (bookmark-get-filename name)))

(define-abbrev global-abbrev-table name file))))

I did not realize how to use this until I googled and found the original post where the poster mentioned using C-x a e (expand-abbrev) and RET on the find-file prompt. Now, if we could make find-file grok this more or less automatically too… ☺ – [MathiasDahl](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/MathiasDahl)

You can do the same thing (access a file bookmark from ‘C-x C-f’ etc.) with Icicles – just hit‘C-x m’. See [Icicles - File-Name Input](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/Icicles_-_File-Name_Input). – [DrewAdams](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/DrewAdams)

**bookmark-add.el**

[Lisp:bookmark-add.el](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/bookmark-add.el) creates a buffer for working with bookmarks. Written by [EugeneMarkov](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/EugeneMarkov)

* ‘M-x bookmark-open-in-simply-buffer’ – switch to \*Bookmark list\*.
* ‘M-x bookmark-set-add’ – Add this bookmark to bookmarks list. To use history, hit Up and Down. The first Up inserts expression which is near to a point.
* ‘M-x bookmark-jump-next-cyclic’, ‘M-x bookmark-jump-prev-cyclic’ – Cycle bookmarks.
* ‘M-x bookmark-jump-backwards’ – Move to last [cursor](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/cursor) position right after uses of commands‘bookmark-jump-next-cyclic’ and ‘bookmark-jump-prev-cyclic’.

**Put Last-Selected Bookmark on Top**

Using this method you’ll find frequently used bookmarks easily (cho-seiri-hou in Japanese). –[rubikitch](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/rubikitch)

(defadvice bookmark-jump (after bookmark-jump activate)

(let ((latest (bookmark-get-bookmark bookmark)))

(setq bookmark-alist (delq latest bookmark-alist))

(add-to-list 'bookmark-alist latest)))

**Org Mode as a Bookmark Manager**

I like to use [OrgMode](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/OrgMode) and [RememberMode](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/RememberMode) to keep my bookmarks for me. Just visit a file/web page/email and then do ‘M-x remember’ and add the item to a bookmarks.org file. With it’s clever hierarchy handling you can keep bookmarks well organised for different projects.

**Syncing Bookmarks with zsh**

zsh has a feature called ‘cd-able-vars’ which is similar to bookmarks but limited to directories on the local machine. Here’s some code to convert emacs’ bookmarks into code for zsh. First add this to your .zshrc:

setopt cd\_able\_vars

[[ -r ~/.zsh.bmk ]] && source ~/.zsh.bmk

Add this to your .emacs:

(defadvice bookmark-write-file

(after local-directory-bookmarks-to-zsh-advice activate)

(local-directory-bookmarks-to-zsh))

(defun local-directory-bookmarks-to-zsh ()

(interactive)

(when (and (require 'tramp nil t)

(require 'bookmark nil t))

(set-buffer (find-file-noselect "~/.zsh.bmk" t t))

(delete-region (point-min) (point-max))

(insert "# -\*- mode:sh -\*-\n")

(let (collect-names)

(mapc (lambda (item)

(let ((name (replace-regexp-in-string "-" "\_" (car item)))

(file (cdr (assoc 'filename

(if (cddr item) item (cadr item))))))

(when (and (not (tramp-tramp-file-p file))

(file-directory-p file))

(setq collect-names (cons (concat "~" name) collect-names))

(insert (format "%s=\"%s\"\n" name (expand-file-name file) name)))))

bookmark-alist)

(insert ": " (mapconcat 'identity collect-names " ") "\n"))

(let ((backup-inhibited t)) (save-buffer))

(kill-buffer (current-buffer))))

**Info Bookmarks**

You can bookmark [Info](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/Info) nodes. As an alternative, you can use [Info+](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/Info%2b) to create a virtual Info book and use Info to navigate its nodes. If you also use [Icicles](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/Icicles) you can have any number of *persistent* virtual Info books.

**Cycling Among Bookmarks**

* [Bookmark+](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/Bookmark%2b) lets you cycle among any set of bookmarks, including visible (highlighted) bookmarks.
* [DoReMi](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/DoReMi) command ‘doremi-bookmarks’ lets you cycle among bookmarks using the up and down arrow keys or a mouse wheel.
* [Icicles](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/Icicles) command ‘icicle-bookmark’ lets you [cycle](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/Icicles_-_Cycling_Completions) cycle among bookmarks. Narrow the candidates using [completion](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/completion).
* [Lisp:bookmark-add.el](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/bookmark-add.el) lets you cycle among bookmarks.
* [VisibleBookmarks](http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/VisibleBookmarks) lets you cycle among visible bookmarks.